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Hangebi joins unity government supporters

Jerusalem Post Staff
Justice Minister Tzahi Hangebi yesterday publicly came out in support of a national unity government, during Israel Radio's evening show *Tofsim Kivun*.

Hangebi's call carries special weight, since he figures prominently within Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's most immediate circle. Asserting that a unity government is now "a necessity," Hangebi said that Netanyahu and opposition head Ehud Barak have ways to discuss this issue even before an official invitation for such a move is actually issued.

The justice minister, who, together with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Science Minister Michael Eitan, forms Netanyahu's hard-core support within the cabinet, added that in his view, Barak and the prime minister can reach agreement on major issues relating to the peace process.

The idea has resurfaced, however, in the wake of the recent terror attacks. Speaking on television following the Ben-Yehuda Street suicide bombings earlier this month, Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said a unity government was "inevitable," and the only question was whether one would be formed before or after "the next disaster."

Morever, Netanyahu's talk this year of an "Allon-Plus" deal on a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians signaled a break from traditional Likud dogma on territorial compromise, and brought him at least theoretically closer to Barak's views.

Within Labor, Barak's major ally, Uzi Baram, last week softened his previously uncompromising opposition to a national unity government, saying there may be circumstances under which he would espouse the idea. Shimon Peres also remains in favor, though it isn't clear whether he would be a member in a Netanyahu-Barak cabinet, should one be formed.

Arafat: Deal is 'a farce' US accepts Ras al-Amud solution

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER, HILLEL KUTTNER, and news agencies

News agencies
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Israel yesterday of resorting to "the lowest means" to try to assert its control over eastern Jerusalem and called the Ras al-Amud compromise "a farce."

The United States announced on Friday that it accepts Israel's solution to the dispute over Ras al-Amud, saying it had been assured that the status of the Jerusalem neighborhood would not change.

The US State Department advised the Palestinian Authority to realize that its chief concerns had been dealt with, and urged the PA to limit its reaction.

"Our main concern that the nature of this neighborhood would not change over time appears to have been met and we have received assurances [from the Israeli government] that it will not be changed over time," spokesman James Rubin said.

"As far as the teams of students who may be in a caretaker status there to maintain the building, that does not strike us at this time as changing the character of the neighborhood, changing the status quo in any serious way" and does not represent "the kind of significant unilateral act that we were calling for both sides to avoid," he said.

The minister added that he "didn't find any attempt by Yitzhaki to bypass Hefetz."

He indicated that the Ras al-Amud dispute with Israel is far from over. Arafat, in a speech at the Cairo-based Arab League, also urged the US to make greater efforts to save the peace process, including supporting the creation of a Palestinian state.

"The US understands that the 10 yeshiva students who replaced the Jewish families in Ras al-Amud would 'operate in shifts but would not live in the house,'" Rubin said.

"Our understanding is that the families... will not be permitted back. Furthermore, there will be no construction in the neighborhood," he said.

"We are here to make sure there is no expansion," he said at the site, where he was joined by dozens of residents and activists, including Yuval Rabin, son of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"His considerations were professional, and I am glad the meeting in my house contributed to bringing the situation back to normal. We are dealing with very good officers who are very dedicated to their work," Kahanani said.

"We are here to make sure there is no expansion," he said at the site, where he was joined by dozens of residents and activists, including Yuval Rabin, son of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Arafat said Thursday's agreement on Ras al-Amud to replace Israeli families with students was "a way for Israel to set up a base for settlers."

"The fact that the PA is concerned about this is not a surprise to us, but we hope that as they understand better the extent to which the main concern of the Palestinians, that the character of the neighborhood not change over time has been met, and that we have received assurances that it will not—that the reaction will be as limited as possible," he said.

"To stir up events at Al Aksa would have been wrong... If one rock was thrown at the [Western] Wall, the whole world would forget the issue of the settlements," he said.

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Arafat said he welcomed US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region earlier this month but he wanted more from the US.

"We understand the Department of Justice is in the process of determining whether a preliminary investigation is warranted," Lanny Davis, White House special counsel, said in a statement. "We are cooperating and we will continue to cooperate with the Department of Justice to ensure it has all the information it needs. We are confident that no laws were broken."

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Clinton funding to be probed

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — The Justice Department is reviewing allegations that President Bill Clinton made improper fund-raising phone calls from the White House, seeking to decide whether to appoint a special prosecutor, US officials said yesterday.

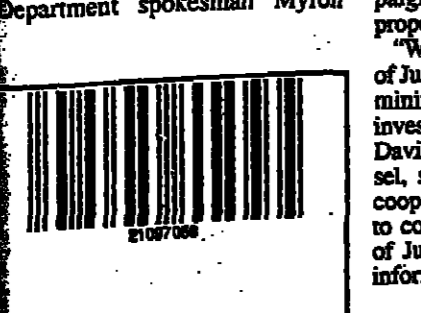
The president has said he does not remember whether he made any political fund-raising phone calls, and the White House believes that Clinton is exempt from the law barring federal employees from soliciting campaign contributions on federal property.

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Gore hires lawyers, Page 5

See CLINTON, Page 2

UK braces for reform after Welsh devolution

LONDON — First, the Scots voted themselves a parliament. Then, the Welsh mustered a bare majority for an assembly. But when it comes to changing the old political order, Britain's freshly-elected Labor Party is just getting started.

WORLDVIEW

Scotland approved a 129-member parliament with the ability to make laws and raise or lower income taxes by up to 3 percent.

Both new parliaments will be seated by 2000, pending almost certain approval from Britain's parliament. The demoralized Conservatives, driven out of power in May after 18 years, have offered only token opposition in the Home Rule debate.

Prime Minister Tony Blair is transforming the way Britain will govern itself, putting forward the most radical constitutional proposals since the 1920s, when women received the vote and the Irish state was established.

Blair is adding more local government, mulling a change in the voting system, and fashioning legislation that could break decades of government secrecy.

Some claim that his initiatives could lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom, which comprises England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Others, though, say Blair's way will cement the diverse parts of this nation with a population of 58 million.

Five million tourists expected in year 2000

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Although Pope John Paul II has said celebrations for the year 2000 are to take place simultaneously in Rome and the Holy Land, Israel has been unable to obtain any schedule of events or plans for the year from the Roman Catholics, Tourism Ministry Director-General David Litvak said this weekend.

"We have been asking them for a year and a half and each time they say it will be all right," Litvak told reporters at a news conference for Go Galilee, a promotion for tourism organizers from abroad.

Litvak said that Israel had been in contact with many Christian bodies, including Protestants from the US Bible Belt and Russian Orthodox from the former Soviet Union. He added that despite the problems, the Roman Catholics were nonetheless the most organized of the Christian bodies involved in preparing for the Christian jubilee year, during which hundreds of thousands of Christian pilgrims are expected.

He said he hoped that as many as five million visitors would come during the year, compared to the present annual influx of about 2.5 million. If

that number did come, he added, the country would be able to accommodate them.

As a Jewish state, Israel did not want to dictate to the Christians as to how they should organize their celebration, Litvak said, but at the same time, he added, it was necessary to identify the bottlenecks and prepare for them so that the pilgrims would indeed be able to have a meaningful visit.

Asked to identify some of the problems involved, Jacky Ovadia, a marketing consultant who is a member of the joint Tourism Ministry and Finance Ministry team preparing for the millennium year, noted that the Church of the Beatitudes, which already has some 600,000 visitors a year, is open, at the most six-and-a-half hours a day. The site also lacks an adequate access road and parking lot, he said.

Vaclav Havel begins Mideast tour

Czech President Vaclav Havel arrived in Amman yesterday for talks with King Hussein on economic ties and Middle East peace-making.

Havel and his wife, Dagmar Havlova, were greeted with a 21-gun salute as Hussein and Queen Noor welcomed them on arrival at Amman's Marka air base.

Havel, 61, flew in from Lebanon on the second leg of a week-long tour that will also take him to Israel and the Palestinian territories, beginning tomorrow.

He was accompanied to Jordan by a 25-member business delegation that will explore investment opportunities and closer business ties with the Hashemite kingdom, a government official said.

He said Havel and Hussein will also discuss ways to restart Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

In Lebanon on Friday, Havel held talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi at the Baabda presidential palace on the outskirts of Beirut.

Czech diplomats were quoted by Lebanese newspapers Friday as saying Havel's trip was "a token contribution to the peace process and the region's stability."

Before leaving Prague, the philosopher-president said: "Already by my presence, by my journey to this region, an official state visit, I am expressing my interest. But that is only the external side of the issue. Of course the substantial thing is the talks, and the content of those talks, and places I am going to visit."

Havel, who was once mentioned as a possible mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, will begin a five-day state visit to Israel tomorrow and hold talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman.



Jordan's King Hussein (right) and his wife Queen Noor (second from left) greet Czech President Vaclav Havel and his wife Dagmar on their arrival at Amman Airport yesterday.

He will make a working visit to the Palestinian-controlled territories and meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was in the Czech

Republic for a private visit before her recent tour of the Middle East and met Havel, whom she used to advise when she was a political science professor soon after he came to power. A personal friendship has developed

between the two but, asked if he had discussed his plans for the visit with Albright, Havel replied, "No comment."

Havel, who led the 1989 bloodless "Velvet Revolution" which overthrew Communist rule in the former Czechoslovakia, visited Israel as Czechoslovak president in 1990. "Then it was unthinkable to combine a visit to Israel with [a visit to] an Arab country," he said. (News agencies)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The compromise in Ras al-Amud last Thursday provided a partial but temporary solution to an explosive situation. The decision to replace the families with 10 yeshiva students who would guard and maintain the property purchased by Irving Moskowitz generated extensive commentary in the Hebrew press.

"Netanyahu proved that he is the 'landlord,' but he still has a long way to go," claims *Yediot Aharonot's* Shimon Shalev, adding that the settlers will not stop the battle for their right to settle in the area.

As for the reactions on other fronts, "Netanyahu does not expect applause from either the Left or Peace Now. The Palestinians will also denounce him, but the Americans will support the compromise," he writes.

Zvi Bareil in *Ha'aretz* asserts that the negotiations concerning Ras al-Amud have established a precedent, under which populating a section in Jerusalem is subordinate to security considerations.

"Netanyahu might be content that he has managed to free himself from becoming the first prime minister evicting settlers from Jerusalem," Bareil writes, "but the fact that negotiations were needed,

wraps a much more difficult constraint around his neck." He adds that it is ironic that settlements, which were once regarded as contributing to security, are now seen as threatening security.

"The compromise in Ras al-Amud reflects the outcome that would have been achieved if Netanyahu were to negotiate with himself," claims *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev. He explains that Netanyahu was forced to compromise between his conviction that Jews are entitled to settle any place in Jerusalem and his awareness of his political needs and public image.

Shalev adds that for the Palestinians, 10 yeshiva students are as much a provocation as three families. "Either Arafat will share the Americans' hopes or conclude that he has nothing more to lose," he writes.

Syria

In an interview with *Ma'ariv's* Yoav Limor, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine addressed the prospect of war with Syria, saying that Syrian deployment indicates they are preparing for war.

However, "there is no need to be

fearful, as the Syrians are not such a threatening army," Levine claims, "and if we were to be dragged into war, they would be defeated and would be completely overcome by the IDF."

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus refers to Foreign Minister David Levy's remarks concerning security sources warning of possible military confrontation. Marcus attacks Levy for saying that the public should not be given information that spreads panic.

"What does he mean?" asks Marcus. "Either the security sources speak truthfully or falsely. If an unnecessary war is under way, the public has a right to know, to get scared and panic."

GSS under attack

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon criticized the close ties between the members of the General Security Service and their Palestinian colleagues, claiming that the relationship corrupts the GSS agents. Ben Caspi of *Ma'ariv* states that Sharon believes that the Palestinians are crafty and sophisticated. "So far, only the Palestinians have benefited from the friendship," Sharon said.

Former GSS head Ya'acov Perry, writing in *Ma'ariv*, criticizes Sharon's attack as unfitting, damaging and irresponsible.

"The GSS was the punching bag, but the message was meant for Netanyahu," claims Perry. He adds that it is no coincidence that Sharon attacked an organization that cannot defend itself, and is directly subordinate to the prime minister. "Netanyahu's dependency on Sharon as the person who could soften the responses of the extreme Right, prevents Netanyahu from taking action against him."

Open borders

The country's border fences are not dependable, Alex Fishman and Guy Leshem, write in an expose in *Yediot Aharonot*. A Palestinian demonstrated to the defense forces the simplicity of breaking into Israeli territory from Gaza through the electronic fence, using only a few simple tools.

A high-ranking official estimated that during the closure following the two bomb attacks in Jerusalem, 40,000 Palestinians were wandering in Israeli territory, several hundred of whom had come from Gaza. Another defense official stated that

the 1998 budget does not provide enough money to improve the fences.

Health Hazard

"In the entanglement of all distortions and injustice surrounding us, the biggest lawsuit is a light at the end of the tunnel," states *Ma'ariv's* Ron Meiberg, in his article about the unprecedented lawsuit against the Dubek cigarette company.

"Fifteen plaintiffs who have lost relatives to smoking-related diseases are suing the company for 15 million shekels. They argue that during the 1950s the company withheld information concerning the hazards of smoking and misled the public. Meiberg states that the lawsuit will force cigarette companies to take responsibility for their hazardous product.

Uri Eilizar in *Yediot*, however, attacks "the twisted logic and arrogance of the smoker claiming compensation for a harm he inflicted upon himself."

He claims that Western civilization has nurtured the idea that the weak are always right, and someone must pay. "Their survival slogan is: Don't be smart, be weak," he writes.

WELSH

Continued from Page 1

Blair's government is mulling over introducing a new voting system. Instead of winner-take-all elections, Britain might create a national parliament by proportional representation, with each party assigned seats based on the percentage of votes it receives.

Blair wants to reform Britain's upper legislative chamber, the House of Lords. He has vowed to take away the voting rights of hereditary peers - those who become peers by virtue of their birth. So-called life peers, selected by the government, would continue having a role shaping - and approving - legislation.

Blair's government is seeking ways to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The move would give Britain what amounts to an American-style Bill of Rights.

His government also has promised to fashion a Freedom of Information Act, a bold step in a country with a long-established culture of government secrecy.

To some like Philip Norton, a Hull University political scientist, the Blair proposals are slapdash and ill-conceived.

"The more levels of government you have, the less accountability," he says. "And there is potential for conflict between the local governments and the

national government."

"I know that there is a desire for change, a feeling that there is a problem in government," he adds. "Reforming the structure of government seems the easy way out. It seems the answer to several ills. People are feeling alienated. The economy seems sluggish. But it's wrong."

Even supporters of the Blair program, like Hazell, say the government may be moving too fast.

"I want to see them slow down to enable the public to catch up," he says. "These are the biggest changes in our system of government for nearly 100 years. And it's very important that they command public understanding and public consent. I'm not opposed to the changes. But they have to come after public understanding and public debate."

Ready or not, however, Britain is adopting the Blair agenda. (Baltimore Sun)

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Primakov prepares Mideast mission

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov is to make a new mission to the Middle East in a bid to revive the peace process, the ministry's top Middle East expert said on Friday after meeting Palestinian officials.

Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk said at a joint news briefing with Palestinian peace negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). Abbas said he was pleased with his talks on Friday with Primakov and said Russia understood the Palestinian position.

"We sense a demand in new contacts with leaders of countries in the region, especially due to the, to say the least, not entirely satisfactory state of the peace process,"

"There was no need for us to convince each other that we share the same positions," he said.

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Al Gore hires lawyers for fund-raising probe

By RON FOURNIER

STANFORD, California (AP) — His legal woes worsening, US Vice President Al Gore has hired two private defense attorneys to handle investigations of questionable fund raising in the 1996 election.

The hiring of Jim Neal of Nashville, Tennessee and George Frampton of Washington reflects growing concern that a special prosecutor might be named to study Gore's fund-raising activities.

Lorraine Voles, a spokeswoman for Gore, confirmed the attorneys' hiring in a telephone interview on Friday.

"The vice president wanted private counsel so he can get his position presented directly and personally to the Department of Justice," Voles said. "He has instructed his private counsel to cooperate fully with the department."

Attorney General Janet Reno has until the first week of October to complete an initial 30-day review about the possibility of conducting a formal investigation into whether an independent counsel should be appointed to look into Gore's fund-raising.

If she approves the formal investigation, the US Justice Department would have 90 days to decide whether to ask a federal court to appoint a special prosecutor.

The White House counsel's office represents Gore only in his official capacity. It became clear in recent days that for the vice president to make his case to the Justice Department, he would need private counsel, said an offi-

cial close to Gore. The official said Gore's position will not change: He says he did no wrong.

There are no plans for Gore to launch a legal defense fund to pay his attorney fees, the official said.



Gore: Growing concern (AP)

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have run up hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills, far more than their defense fund has raised.

Gore has not worked out the financial arrangements with the attorneys, the official said.

Neal is a longtime friend and adviser of the Gores. He is a partner of the Neal and Harwell law firm. Frampton, a former assistant secretary of interior under Clinton, will be co-counsel. He is based in Washington.

Gore says he broke no rules, but many Democrats are braced for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate further. Because special prosecutors have wide latitude in the scope of their investigations, such a probe could haunt Gore through the 2000 campaign.

An unfettered probe also could increase pressure on Clinton, who so far has weathered congressional investigations without serious harm to his popularity.

Gore acknowledged in March that he had made phone solicitations to 48 Democratic donors from his White House office between November 1995 and May 1996.

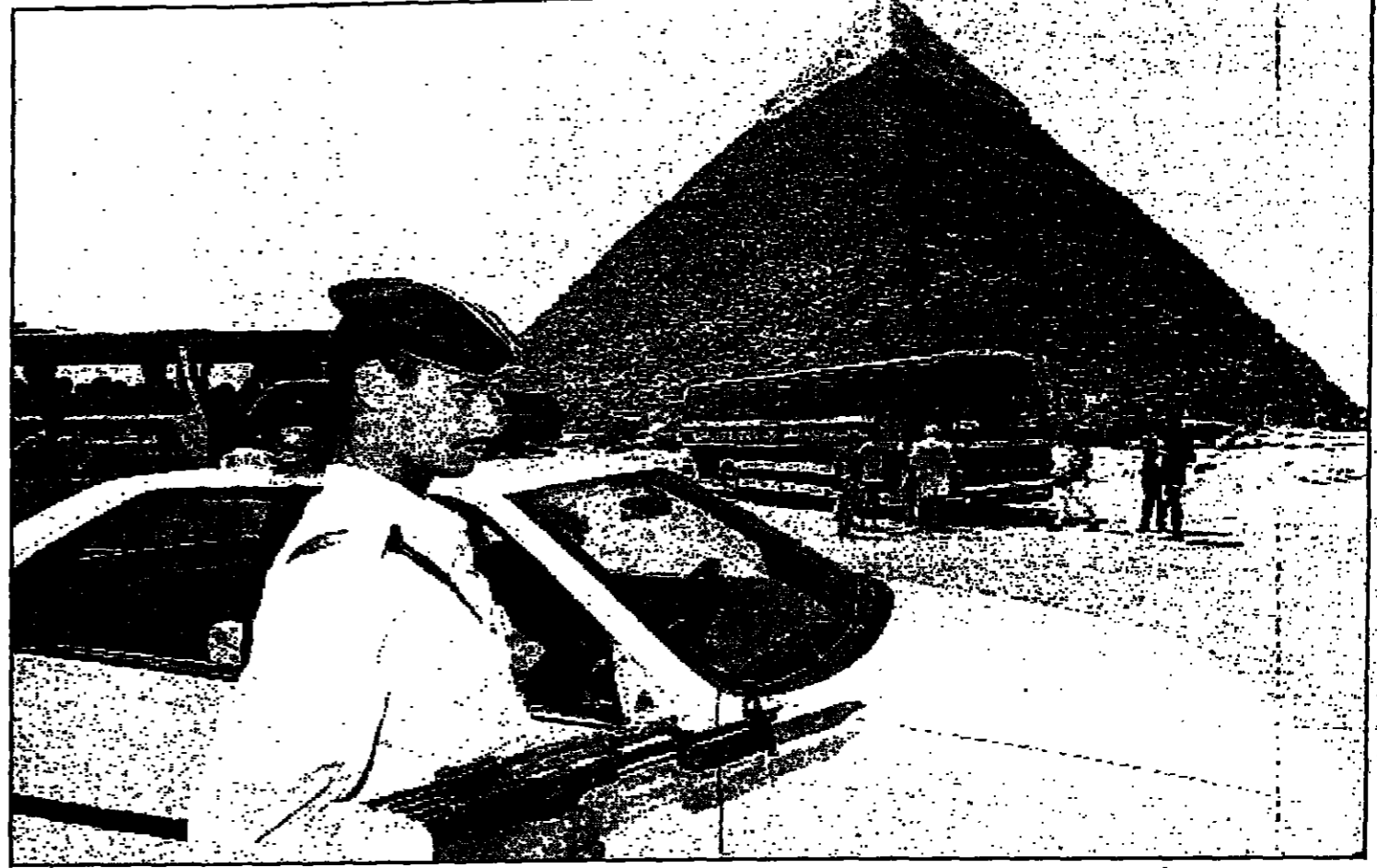
Federal law prohibits federal officials from making fund-raising solicitations on government property, although experts disagree whether that statute applies to calls made to donors outside the building.

Gore originally said he did not charge any of the calls to taxpayers, insisting he had used a Democratic Party credit card.

But last month, the White House acknowledged 20 of his calls were originally charged to taxpayers.

Federal law prohibits the use of government resources for politics. Gore and his supporters have steadfastly maintained that the calls he made from the White House were legal.

Last week, the AP disclosed that Gore made an earlier set of phone solicitations to donors in the final weeks of the 1994 election. That time, however, he was driven to Democratic Party headquarters rather than make them from the White House.



An Egyptian officer stands guard next to the Giza pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo, as security was beefed up at tourist attractions, following the slaying of 10 in an attack on a tourist bus in front of the Egyptian Museum on Thursday. (AP)

Germany unhappy with Egypt's probe of bus attack

CAIRO — A foreign ministry spokesman said in Bonn yesterday that his country was not satisfied with the results of the Egyptian investigation into the slaying of 10 in an attack on a tourist bus, and warned Germans against traveling to parts of Egypt.

Germany said it would send a high level delegation to Egypt to help probe the background to the attack.

The German victims' bodies were due to arrive back in Germany today.

Egypt said yesterday that two men arrested for the shooting and firebomb attack which killed nine German tourists and an Egyptian driver in central Cairo, had acted alone.

Egypt is keen to show that it is serious about security to protect tourism, a key hard currency earner, from any fallout from the attack.

"Security authorities revealed all dimensions of the crime," Interior Minister Hassan el-Ahram told Egypt's government newspaper el-Ahram. "The two attackers had no accomplices."

Security sources said shortly after Thursday's attack that it was thought to be the work of Moslem militant groups trying to overthrow

the government. Militants have killed 26 foreigners and wounded 73 in attacks since 1992, targeting foreign visitors to try to cripple the country's economically vital tourist industry.

Egyptian officials, keen to portray the attack as an isolated incident unrelated to militants who have threatened the vital tourist industry, identified those arrested as "madman" Saber Abu el-Ulla and his brother Mahmoud.

There has been no reported claim of responsibility for the attack. While Egyptian officials deny it was part of any organized terrorist group, el-Ulla may have been driven by Moslem fundamentalist views.

Security sources have said he confessed to acting out of revenge after an Israeli woman plastered posters in the Palestinian town of Hebron in June depicting Islam's Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

Some witnesses then said he shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) before he opened fire on the bus parked near the Egyptian Museum in busy Tahrir Square.

Sources originally said there were three gunmen involved and later denied there was a third.

El-Ulla reenacted the attack for prosecutors yesterday with and said he enjoyed the performance.

As officials video-taped his every move, the smiling el-Ulla quipped: "I have always wanted to be an actor." Prosecutors had asked him to demonstrate how he and his brother attacked the tour bus.

"We saw that bus, and I climbed up the stairs, shot the driver once and attacked the tour guide who tried to intervene," he said.

Then he opened fire and buried three firebombs down the aisle.

His brother lobbed eight firebombs under the bus which by then was filling with dense black smoke.

The brother told prosecutors that once the bus was on fire, "we headed to the museum to find more (tourists)." But police caught them. El-Ulla has a history of violence against foreigners. Police said he attacked Cairo's Semiramis Hotel on Oct. 26, 1993, killing two Americans and a Frenchman.

He then spent two years in a mental asylum and escaped three days before the attack, police said. (News agencies)

Korean peace talks break down

NEW YORK (AP) — Four-way talks to arrange a peace conference for the divided Korean peninsula have broken down after North Korea refused to soften demands that the negotiations take up the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea.

No further preliminary talks were scheduled, a senior US official said.

He made clear that Washington would not resume preparatory talks to the conference unless North Korea signals it is willing to compromise.

"We will be looking to the North Koreans for some serious

sign," he said.

Officials from the United States, North and South Korea and China met for a second day Friday to hear whether the North would join peace talks without a guarantee to discuss the removal of American troops from the South.

The chief North Korean delegate said they simply needed more time.

"We have failed to reach agreement on the agenda of the conference," but "not because of patience or lack of will," Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan said. "The only thing we require here is patience and time to settle

these issues."

There were no statements from South Korean or Chinese officials.

The offer for further four-way talks is still on table, although there are no such talks scheduled, the US official said.

Frequent diplomatic contacts, however, continue between North Korea and the United States on Pyongyang's missile program and American soldiers missing from the Korean War.

The United States will go ahead with plans to send a US team to North Korea to assess the food situation, the American official said.

Fujimori battle against TV takes new twist

By DAVID KOOP

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Backed by police, the minority owners of a television station that had angered Peru's armed forces seized the station, stripping its majority owner of control.

The takeover on Friday was the latest battle in the government's dramatic fight against the station, which spurred mass street protests, cabinet resignations and a plunge in President Alberto Fujimori's popularity ratings.

Calling the takeover an attack on press freedom and a political reprisal for the station's investigative reports, more than 20 of

Channel 2's journalists, including news director Fernando Viana, announced their resignations.

The minority owners, Samuel

See Editorial, Page 6

and Mendel Winter, are seen as more supportive of the government and military than the Israeli-born majority owner Baruch Ivcher, under whose control the station repeatedly angered authorities with reports linking the politically powerful armed forces to

torture, corruption and telephone espionage.

"This is the final act of an attack on press freedom and the legal order in Peru. Some day we will return with our heads held high," said Luis Iberico, director of Channel 2's principal news program Contrapunto.

No violence was reported, but police confiscated film from an Associated Press photographer who was inside the station when police entered.

Police acted on the orders of the Winter brothers.

In July, the government revoked Ivcher's Peruvian citizenship, saying he did not renounce his Israeli

citizenship prior to his 1984 nationalization.

Peruvian law prohibits foreigners from owning television or radio stations. Ivcher owns 54 percent of Channel 2's stock.

The decision, along with other authoritarian measures by the government, led to the biggest street protests seen during President Alberto Fujimori's seven years in power.

His popularity plummeted to less than 20 percent and five cabinet ministers resigned amid charges the government was trying to intimidate the opposition news media.

The US State Department sent

a letter to Fujimori expressing concern.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists also condemned the seizure as "a clear threat to freedom of expression in Peru."

The group's executive director William Orme added: "Today's raid on Channel 2 is the latest and most alarming episode of a concerted government campaign intended to punish journalists for doing their job."

Fujimori has refused to comment on the case, saying it was a fight between shareholders that should be settled by the courts. But Ivcher has charged that the

government controls the judicial system.

Among the reports aired by Channel 2 was the case of Leonor La Rosa, a former intelligence agent suspected of leaking documents to the news media. She was tortured by her colleagues and left with spinal damage.

The station also released transcripts of hundreds of telephone conversations of journalists, politicians and businessmen allegedly taped illegally by intelligence operatives.

The reports led to charges that the government spies on its enemies.

Hours after the station broke the telephone espionage story in July,

the government announced that it had revoked Ivcher's citizenship.

In May, the armed forces issued a communique accusing the station of carrying out a campaign to discredit the military. Since the communique's release, Ivcher has lived in self-exile in Miami saying he fears for his life if he returns to Peru.

A court in August granted temporary control of the station to the Winters until the ownership dispute is settled.

Ivcher has called the decision to take control of the station away from him a "confiscation" and vowed to take the case to international human rights organizations.

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BOOK REVIEW

Shoddy treatment of a feminist icon

By VICTORIA A. BROWNORTH

GLORIA STEINEM: Her Passions, Politics, and Mystique by Sydney Ladenson Stern. Birch Lane Press, 288 pp., \$24.95.

This is Sydney Ladenson Stern's first foray into the biography genre. Readers can only hope it will be her last. Kindly put, Stern has not mastered the art. If Steinem were dead, she'd be spinning in her grave; still living, she may never be able to leave her apartment again. This book embarrasses both author and subject.

access to family, friends and colleagues, as well as more than 50 hours of personal interview time. The result is puzzling.

A svelte and youthful 63, it's difficult to imagine Steinem is going senile, yet what other explanation could there be? The disjointed tale begins with Steinem's early years. The product of what could charitably be called a dysfunctional family, Steinem was raised alternately by her manic-depressive and drug-addicted mother, an aunt and uncle, and her older sister. The bizarre circumstances of her early life left her with a scatter-shot education and an early talent for embellishing the truth.

Along the way were several dalliances with famous men, notably director Mike Nichols, writer Ted Sorensen and tycoon Mort Zuckerman.

Steinem became the poster girl for feminism in the 1970s because she was good-looking, smart, articulate and blatantly heterosexual. A natural leader, she co-founded Ms. magazine, the Ms. Foundation, the National Women's Political Caucus and Voters for Choice. Her feminist political agenda led her to write groundbreaking exposes of everything from the Playboy Club (where she posed as a Bunny) to child sexual abuse.



Stern's biography is an embarrassment to both author and subject Steinem (above).

The second wave of feminism that began in the 1960s is a pivotal part of American history; Steinem was a key player. Her political motivation, how she escaped traditional female roles, the impact

of her romances with men, how she made a living - these are vital issues for those for whom she is feminist icon and role model. Perhaps her next biographer will illuminate them. (Baltimore Sun)

A Mir mortal

By MARCIA DUNN

Rhonda Foale made a deal with her daredevil husband long before either of them knew he'd be flying to Russia's ragged space station Mir. First tell me you're fine, then break the bad news.

It all goes back to the day Michael Foale crash-landed his plane.

He and a fellow-NASA astronaut were coming in for a landing at the Galveston, Texas, airport when the single engine failed. The Grumman Tiger four-seater belly-lucked into Galveston Bay and, luckily, did not overturn. The pilots were rescued by boaters.

Foale left this message for his wife on the answering machine: "Hello, I'm fine. But, um, we landed the plane in the water. I'll be home soon." That was it.

Rhonda Foale laughs as she recalls that day back in 1993. "We always joked about that," she said, "that if anything happened to me today." So whenever a new problem crops up on Mir and her husband's safety is threatened, she remembers Galveston Bay. So does he.

Foale sent this soothing message to his wife of 10 years right after a cargo ship plowed into Mir on June 25, rupturing the station and reducing it to half-power. "This is like other things that have happened to me," she understood.

"It's just like landing the plane in Galveston Bay," explained the cool-headed woman behind the cool-headed man. "Besides," she said, "I don't feel too nerve-racked because we expected lots of things would happen because lots of things happened" during the previous astronaut's Mir stint.

Rhonda Foale understands the perils of space flight better than most. She worked for NASA for eight years as an engineer, specializing in the shuttle robot arm.

She quit after their second child was born in September 1994 and accompanied her husband to the cosmonaut-training center in Star City, Russia, a year later. They returned to their Houston-area home just before space shuttle Atlantis flew him to Mir in May. The shuttle is supposed to return for him in late September.

Rhonda Foale misses her husband, as do their two children. But she realizes that space flight is his dream. He'd love nothing more than to fly to Mars. And both feel strongly that joint US-Russian space efforts like this are essential.

"I just say my prayers. All I can do is say my prayers," she said. "I know the managers are doing a real good job, they're trying to keep those guys safe. And they've always got the Soyuz they can come down in."

Without a doubt, she says, her husband's positive attitude and winsome ways have helped him through the tough times on Mir, as they did in his grueling preparations for this, his fourth and by far longest space flight.

"The Russians are so proud of him," she says. "That is really something for a Russian to accept you and say, 'You're almost like us.' They gave him that compliment even when we were living over there."

The 40-year-old British-born astrophysicist and former underwater expedition diver has not complained since arriving on Mir, either publicly or in his weekly phone calls and twice-or-thrice-weekly computer letters to his wife.

"He's always in a great mood and joking around," said Rhonda Foale, 39. "He'll tell me about watching a movie on the Mir. He writes wonderful notes about [commander] Anatoly, how impressed he was when Anatoly showed up. It was like the cavalry coming in, like John Wayne coming in to straighten things out."

Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov arrived at Mir on August 7 to replace the weary Vasily Tsibliyev and Alexander Lazutkin, who had been on board for six months.

Foale was sorry to see Tsibliyev and Lazutkin go.

"He says he got all choked up about it and just stared out the window," his wife said.

The three men had been through a lot: the collision, Tsibliyev's stress-induced heart condition, power outages, equipment breakdowns. Before leaving, Tsibliyev praised Foale for doing more than his share. Indeed, the astronaut, a computer whiz, spent what little spare time he had streamlining the electronic mail-retrieval system on the antiquated space station.

Foale may help out in an even bigger way next week. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has given tentative approval for him to go outside with Solovyov to search for holes resulting from the collision.

"He's the first American who's been an almost equal crew member," Rhonda Foale said proudly. "If anyone can help, he can."

(AP)

EARTHLY CONCERNS



A hard tusk - guaranteeing that any ivory on the market comes from a legitimate source. (Amri Rubinger)

High stakes

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The war between those who want to see an absolute ban on ivory trading continue and countries that want to legalize some sales is far from over.

In July, the 138 nations that signed the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted in favor of a limited and controlled trade in ivory with Japan in 21 months' time.

More specifically, they approved a request by member states Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia that their elephant populations be removed from the convention's Appendix #1, opening the door to these three states' controlled trade in ivory with Japan.

The three states have large stockpiles of ivory from elephants that either died a natural death or were culled to maintain the herds.

This includes aged bulls, injured animals and surplus younger bulls. (Culling is necessary to balance herds, and keep populations at a level the area can support.)

These countries want to sell this legally obtained ivory and use the proceeds for elephant conservation - more park rangers, better monitoring, damages to farmers whose crops have been damaged or destroyed by elephants, and a wide-ranging survey to see just how many elephants are left in Africa.

For instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo there may

well be as many as 65,000 forest elephants, but a survey is urgently needed. The three southern African states claim that the legal sale of their ivory stockpiles would provide the necessary funds.

To sell this ivory, these three states and Japan, their trading partner, must convince at least three CITES-appointed monitoring committees that they have set up adequate safeguards to prevent poached ivory being laundered through this market.

That won't be easy, since almost every kind of brand or hallmark in use can be forged. While it is possible to determine ivory's origin using certain radioactive isotope tests, these are too expensive to be practical.

The great fear of most CITES members is that lifting the now-total ban on ivory sales will open the door to widespread poaching - a realistic fear, since the price of ivory is very high.

Though a poacher can lose his life in a battle with wildlife control rangers and, if caught, faces anywhere from 10 to 25 years of hard labor, many are willing to take the risk.

A good pair of elephant tusks from even a middle-aged bull will bring in enough money to support a family of five or six for more than a year.

So unless a way can be found to guarantee the legal origin of every tusk sold, it looks as though July's decision to lift the ban will remain on paper.

Gore has hard the controversies surrounding him in a klutzy manner. Klutziness isn't federal crime.



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Union Carbide weighs down Dow

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) - A discouraging profit forecast from Union Carbide weighed down the Dow Jones industrial average, but most stock indexes rose Friday as interest rates fell for the sixth straight session in the bond market.

The Dow fell just 5 points to 7,917 after trimming a 37-point deficit over the final half hour. If not for a big drop by Union Carbide, the blue-chip barometer would have shown a small gain for the day.

Broader stock indicators turned positive around midday, extending several record-setting streaks. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies closed at a record high for the sixth consecutive session and for the 15th time in 17 sessions.

Also setting new highs were the Nasdaq composite index and the American Stock exchange composite index. With no major economic reports released during the session, trading was dominated by the expiration of futures and options contracts on stocks and stock indexes - a quarterly event known as "triple witching."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.45 to 7,917.27, trimming the week's gain to 174.30. Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a narrow margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,389 up, 1,461 down and 569 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 630.54 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 566.85 million in the previous session. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock list rose 3.22 to 950.51, moving back within 10 points of its early August peak.

The NYSE composite index rose 1.15 to 496.56, just 0.44 below its August 6 record high. The Nasdaq composite rose 10.35 to 1,680.57 for its third record close this week.

Currencies Markets wait for G7 forum

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar fell against most major currencies Friday, but gained against the Japanese yen as traders braced for a weekend Group of Seven meeting that could highlight US uneasiness with Japan's trade surplus.

The Mexican peso, meanwhile, rose to its strongest close since October 1996 on the strength of the surging Mexican stock market. Although Japan's burgeoning trade surplus, helped by a weak yen, is expected to be discussed at the meeting of finance officials from seven major industrialized nations, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said there would be no "dramatic statement" following the meeting.

Rubin said he expects a statement that might mention interest rates. "We're waiting for the G-7 to unfold... We're on our toes," said Bill Bertha, senior trader at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with late Thursday: 1.4630 Swiss francs, down from 1.4663; 5.9265 French francs, down from 5.9755; and 1.730 Italian lire, down from 1.736.15.

STOCKS

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Last Change. Includes Dow Jones, FTSE, Nikkei.

Europe

Share prices fell Friday on the London Stock Exchange. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-Share Index finished down 22.4 points, or 0.44%, at 5,023.8.

The Financial Times 30-Share Index closed down 2.0 points, or 0.06%, at 3,245.6. Volume was 875.6 million shares compared with 748.2 million on Thursday.

Asia

Asian stock markets ended the week generally higher Friday, with Philippine share prices rebounding after seven days of declines.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) Index of 30 selected issues rose 68.72 points, or 3.4%, to 2,078.57, following Thursday's 64.11-point, or 3.1%, plunge. Friday's market recovery follows a seven-day sell-down which eroded 219.07 points, or 9.8%, from the main index.

Traders said both the Philippine peso and stock market strengthened as concerns about political instability ebbed. The peso averaged 33.491 pesos per dollar at the end of trading, compared to Thursday's record low average of 33.852 pesos.

Share prices in Tokyo closed higher for the second straight day, boosted by buying of internationally known blue chips on the back of the dollar's strength against the yen. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 128.12 points, or 0.71%, closing the week at 18,058.21 points. On Thursday, the average had risen 246.82 points, or 1.40 percent.

Early in the session share prices fell slightly amid worries about the nation's economic health following news Thursday that Japanese supermarket operator Yaohan filed for bankruptcy. Yaohan, which operates supermarkets in Japan and abroad, failed Thursday with more than \$1 billion in debts.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was up 4.37 points, or 0.32%, to 1,389.46. The TOPIX rose 11.12 points, or 0.81%, the day before. Thai share prices closed slightly higher, with key index rising 1.65 points to 523.30.

Dealers said sentiment in the Thai market was upbeat after International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus said he was satisfied with the speed of Thailand's economic reforms. Share prices closed higher for the third straight day in Taipei on news that the government plans to accelerate the privatization of Taiwan's three largest commercial banks. The market's key Weighted Stock Price Index rose 102.38 points, or 1.1%, closing at 9,243.71.

In Hong Kong share prices closed generally lower in cautious trading. The Hang Seng Index, the market's key indicator of blue chips, fell 35.32 points, or 0.24%, closing at 14,384.13.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

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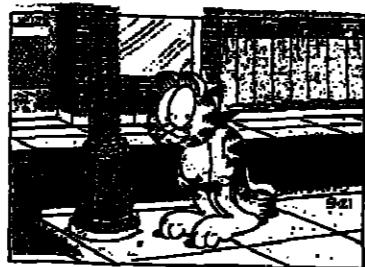
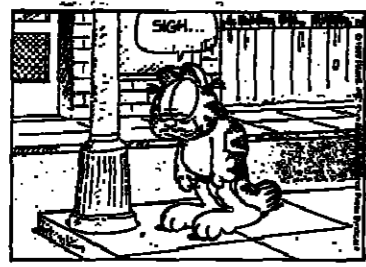
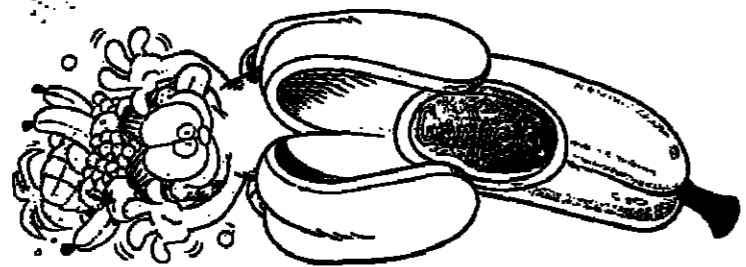
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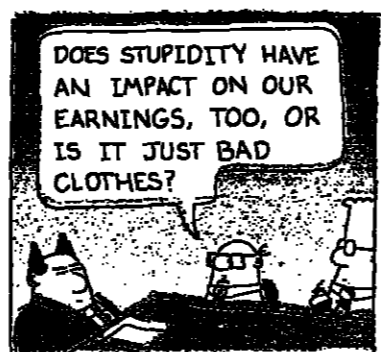
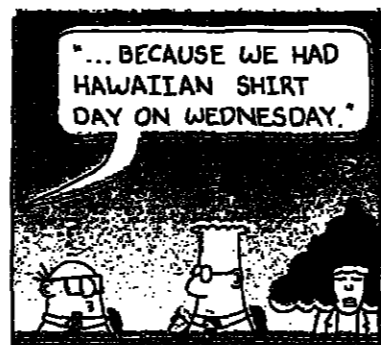
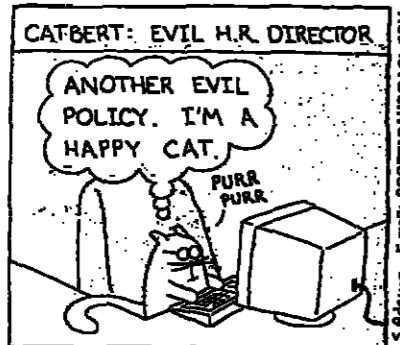
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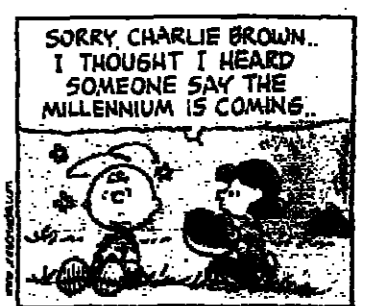
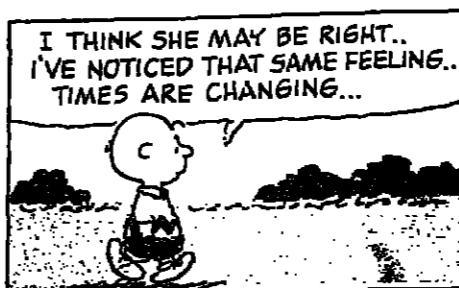
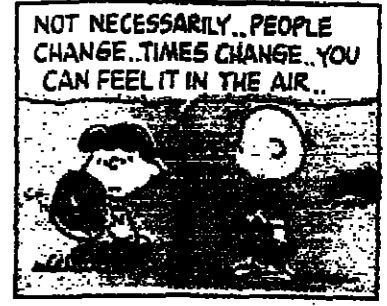
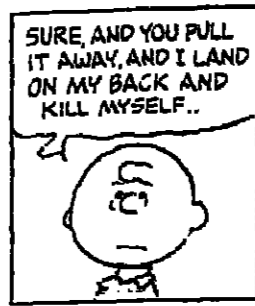
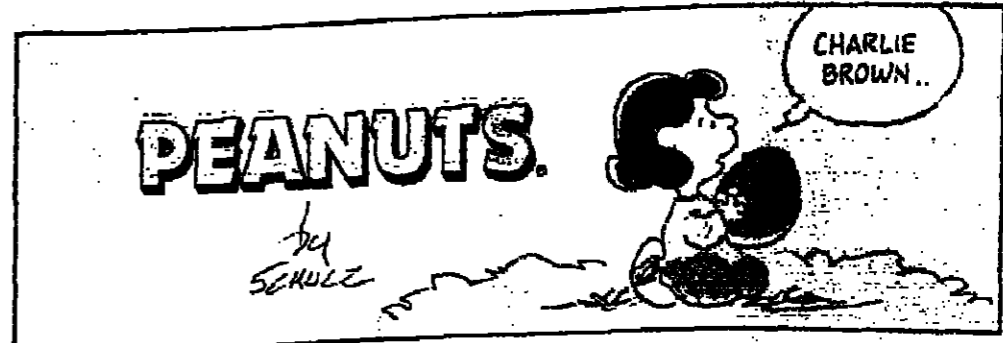
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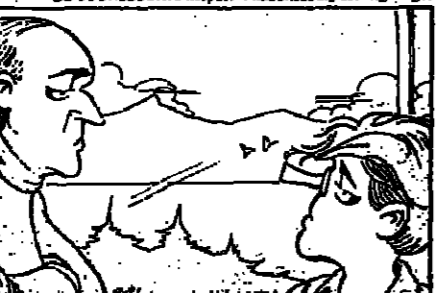
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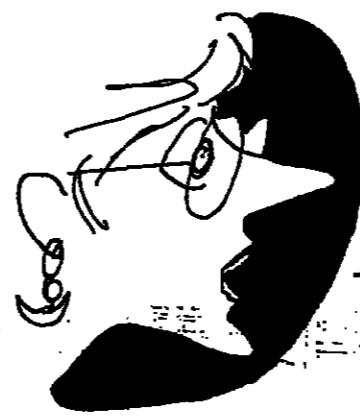
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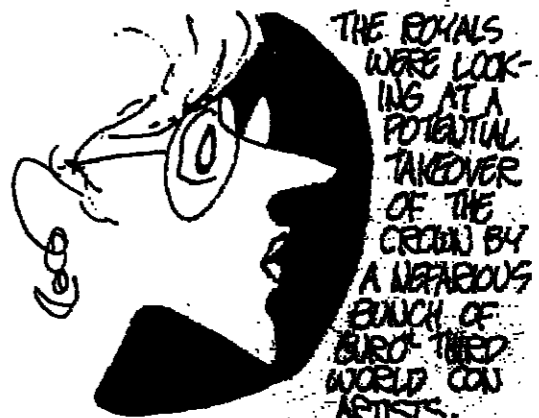
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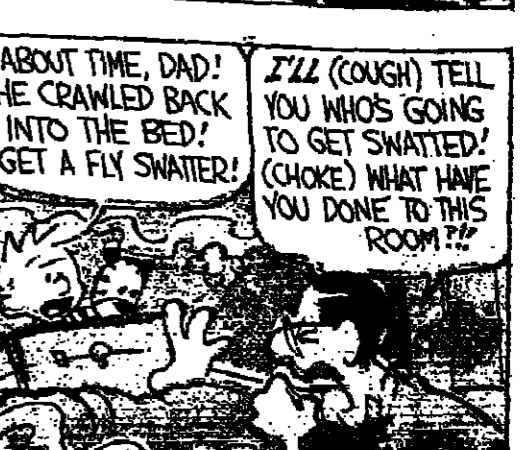
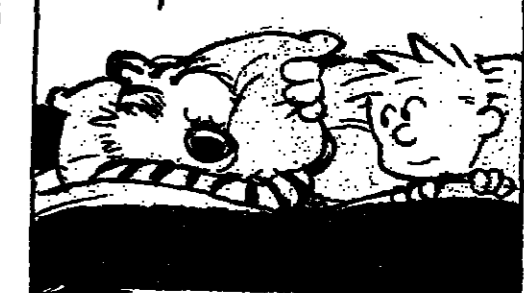
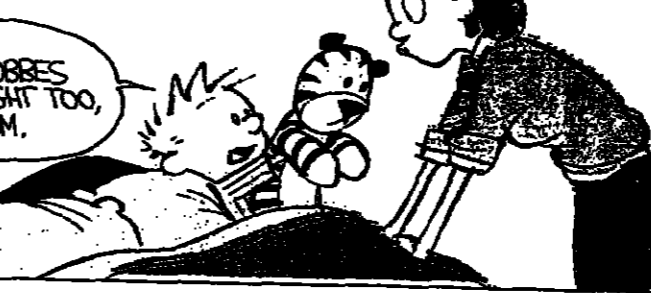
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Calvin and Hobbes



Mandela: Follow S. African peace model

By BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

President Nelson Mandela on Friday urged parties in the Middle East to shun war and follow South Africa's example of reconciliation and peace.

Receiving an honorary doctorate in Cape Town from Ben-Gurion University, Mandela, who launched the black guerrilla war against white rule in 1961, praised civilians trying to bridge the conflict between Arabs and Jews, and announced that he planned to visit the Middle East next year.

Dr. Avishai Braverman, president of Ben-Gurion University presented the award, witnessed by representatives of 14 South African universities, in recognition of Mandela's "pursuit of democracy and human rights."

In his acceptance speech Mandela said, "Today, we cannot but share the anxiety of all those who are concerned for peace at the loss of momentum, at the erosion of trust... and at the rising level of tensions in which extremism on either side thrives."

"Today, at the end of a century which has seen such a desert of devastation caused by horrific wars, a century which at last has gained much experience in the peaceful resolution of conflicts, we must ask: Is this a time for war? Is this a time for sending young men to their death?" Speaking before Mandela, Dan Tichon, speaker of the Knesset, promised that a recent wave of suicide bombings would not be allowed to derail the stalled peace process.

"Peace will in the end prevail. Though Arab terrorism continues to destroy the peace process, spreading death and suffering, we

will not allow the destruction of the hopes for peace," he said.

Tichon praised Mandela for guiding South Africa peacefully from apartheid to democracy since his release from political imprisonment in 1990, saying: "President Mandela symbolises the triumph of faith and hope over despair and hatred, the triumph of love and brotherhood over the regime of oppression and evil."

"President Mandela has experience enough to tell us that had terrorism been given the right to resolve conflict, his now free country would have overflowed with rivers of blood." Tichon did not refer to the 30-year armed campaign by Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the armed wing of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The ANC abandoned the armed struggle, which included bomb and gun attacks of civilians throughout the country, only when the white government abandoned apartheid and agreed terms for a transition to democracy, which began with elections in 1994.

Tichon invited Mandela to visit Israel, saying: "I have no doubt that you, the architect of reconciliation in South Africa, would contribute to an enduring peace in our region. We hope to see you soon in the holy land." Mandela, who has bolstered peace efforts in more than a dozen countries, accepted for next year but has three times cancelled a proposed visit to the Middle East.

Mandela who is expected to be succeeded within the next two years by his deputy Thabo Mbeki said that leaders had a special responsibility to create the conditions for the successful negotia-



Ben-Gurion University president Avishai Braverman presents South Africa's President Nelson Mandela with an honorary doctorate Friday in Cape Town.

tion of an end to conflict. "South Africa does not believe it can solve the problems of others, but we do believe that our

own humble experience has shown that negotiated solutions can be found even to conflicts that have come to seem intractable."

he said. President Ezer Weizman sent a congratulatory letter, saying "We pray that our leaders will have the

same courage and wisdom that you have displayed in confronting problems of peaceful coexistence."

UIA allocates millions for Israel's Reform, Conservative movements

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The United Israel Appeal has allocated almost \$5 million for the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel, although only half of that appears to be directed at programming for Israelis.

The United Jewish Appeal, meanwhile, has agreed to try to raise \$10 million each for the two movements. But that deal is contingent on the UIA's success in its regular fund-raising. The UIA raises about \$750 million a year.

The amounts for the religious streams, which are small relative to the fund-raising totals, seem destined for programs that have

been called unimaginative. It appears that a lot of the funds are to be used to cover routine costs and operating expenses, not for outreach to Israelis.

Some \$14 million of the UIA's 1997 budget is aimed at programs for Jewish "unity" - the code word for "pluralism." About \$6 million is allocated for programs that are not associated with any religious stream, such as the Pardes Institute. The allocations for the religious streams have been nearly doubled, to \$2.2 million to the Reform movement and \$2.9 million each to the Conservative and Orthodox movements.

The UIA allocates to the Jewish Agency about \$220 million of the money raised in the US by the UIA and the local Jewish federations.

Although the Reform and Conservative movements have mounted an active campaign to expand their bases in Israel, and have been frustrated at their slow progress, much of their agency-supported programming is not intended for Israelis or to influence Israeli society.

"It is our view that around half is spent directly on programs with or for Israeli citizens," Rabbi

Daniel Allen, UIA's executive director, said Friday. "They are benefiting from the national UIA campaign in a major way for their own constituents from America. But at some point, everybody has to put their shekels where their mouth is."

In the last few months, the Reform and Conservative movements and the UIA honed a deal in which UIA committed itself to pursue a separate campaign to raise an additional \$20 million for the Reform and Conservative movements' operations.

In a joint statement at week's end, the Reform movement leaders - Rabbis Eric Yoffie, Paul Menioff and Ammiel Hirsch - urged their rabbis and congregations to cooperate with the UIA.

"The most important issue for us is to begin directing large amounts of resources to Israel operations," the leadership statement said. "In the long run, the only way we can change the climate in Israel is to build on our presence there. This requires large investments of money. The fact that we were able to persuade our federation friends that it is within their interest to help us, in itself, a significant development."

Foreign Ministry concerned about Turks' delay in accepting envoy

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The Foreign Ministry is concerned about the inordinate delay in Ankara's acceptance of Ehud Toledano as ambassador to Turkey.

Although the Tel Aviv University professor who specializes in Ottoman history was approved by the ministry's appointments committee July 15 and the traditional agreement was requested August 1, the Turks have not responded.

Official sources here suspect that the ambassador-designate's presentation of credentials is being held up because of Turkish suspicions that he believes the Ottomans committed genocide against the empire's Armenian minority during World War I.

This notion surfaced in an extreme right-wing Turkish newspaper, *Yeni Gunaydin*, last Thursday. It cited an interview said to have been given by

Toledano 15 years ago to Army Radio, in which he reportedly accused Ottoman Turkey of slaughtering the Armenians.

Toledano described the report as a "fascist" slur, saying the interview in question was incorrectly translated into Turkish, and he was thus being blamed for comments he did not make.

Toledano pointed out that he supported the Tel Aviv Municipality's decision to name his mentor, Prof. Bernard Lewis, as an Honorary Fellow of Tel Aviv. Lewis's selection was vehemently opposed by individuals who fault him for denying that Turkey was guilty of genocide.

"I also reject that charge," Toledano said. "As a Jew, I know what genocide is. It was committed by Nazi Germany against our people. Turkey's treatment of the Armenians eight decades ago cannot be put into the same historical category."

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Israeli-Cuban group launches \$200m. Havana office project

HAVANA (Reuters) - An Israeli-Cuban joint venture announced on Friday the start of a 10-year, \$200 million construction project to build a major business center in Havana which will rent modern offices to foreign and Cuban companies.

The first two six-floor office buildings of the Miramar Trade Center, to be situated in Havana's Miramar district, are scheduled to be completed within 18 months,

executives from the Monte Barreto S.A. real estate company told a news conference.

The whole project foresees a total of 18 office blocks.

Monte Barreto is a joint venture between an Israeli company, B.M. Group, and Lares S.A., the real estate arm of the Cuban state hard currency corporation Cubale.

Emrique Rotenberg, the general manager of Monte Barreto, said the

trade center office project was designed to meet heavy growing demand for modern offices from foreign businessmen and investors working in communist-ruled Cuba.

While the Israeli-Cuban joint venture would operate the office center, its actual construction was the responsibility of a Spanish-Cuban joint venture, INDUCOMER S.A.

This building group, which brings together the Cuban construction firm COI No 3 (repeat COI No 3), and a Spanish company, TAIM TFG, won an international tender for the project.

Monte Barreto would start taking initial rental reservations from foreign and Cuban companies next month. Rents would be payable in

hard currency at prices above \$20 per square meter.

The Israeli Group B.M. already runs a citrus farm in Cuba and is also involved in the sugar sector.

It has received a warning from the US State Department that its business in Cuba could be in violation of the March 1996 US Helms-Burton Law, which threatens sanctions against foreign investors on the island judged to be "trafficking" in expropriated, formerly US-owned property.

Asked about the US warning and possible sanctions, Rotenberg said "this law does not concern us."

"We are working in accordance with the laws of Israel and Cuba," he added.

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